

Arts and Science Faculty Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 4

Spring 1996

Good news - New Computing Power

The Faculty has been able to obtain two Silicon Graphics workstations. The machines are to be reserved for faculty, graduates, and undergraduates who need access to powerful processing *and particularly excellent graphics capabilities for coursework or research*. For those to whom this means something, the specifications are as follows:

Indigo2 Desktop Workstation with:

- MIPS R10000 CPU (8.9 SPECint95, 12.5SPECfp95)
- 128 Mbytes RAM
- 2 Gbyte hard disk
- Solid IMPACT graphics engine
- 24 bit graphics
- 20" colour monitor (1280x1025 pixel resolution)

Indy Desktop Workstation with:

- MIPS R5000SC CPU (150 Mhz) (3.7 SPECint95), 4.2 SPECfp96)
- 32 Mbytes RAM
- 1 Gbyte hard disk
- XGE 8-bit graphics
- 17" colour monitor (1280x1024 pixel)

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Concordia-York Chair in Canadian Jewish Studies to Host Conference

On June 9-10, 1996 the Chair in Canadian Jewish Studies of Concordia University and the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University will host a major conference at Concordia entitled "A Heritage in Transition: Jewish Studies in Canada." The conference is partially funded by a grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage (Multiculturalism).

The conference will feature presentations by Canadian scholars representative of the most recent research and methodologies in the areas which form the field of Jewish Studies. It is designed to give Canadian scholars in the field, for the first time, a Canadian forum in which to exchange their ideas. This conference, which will be open to the public, will serve to underline the breadth and depth of Jewish Studies in Canada.

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CRDH to Host Conference in November

The Centre for Research in Human Development will be hosting a conference entitled "Improving Competence Across the Lifespan" from November 15-17, 1996. This conference is designed to examine the linkages between research and its translation into interventions that succeed in improving levels of human competence including cognitive, social, and emotional functioning. The conference has two central objectives.

The first and major objective is to assess how successful we are at improving competent functioning during different stages in the human lifespan, including infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and late adulthood. The conference will present major addresses by eminent researchers who will discuss the nature of the problems that occur, what types of interventions are successful, and which functions are most amenable to

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News from the Dean's Office

Dean of Arts and Science

This is not an easy time for the Faculty of Arts and Science. We are dealing as best we can with changes in our academic programmes in the context of shrinking budgets and possible retirements. It's a daunting task, the parameters of which are not yet clear.

But as we move ahead, some new academic possibilities are emerging that are quite exciting. Some departments are reorienting and tightening their curriculum in response to expressed priorities; others are combining courses in new and imaginative ways. There is renewed discussion about the formation of a School of Psychological Sciences, and the

possibility of other configurations, such as a school of Communication, Technology and Information Studies. The system of clustering electives suggests new academic avenues for students, and there is support for general education through the recommendation of a degree in Arts and Science.

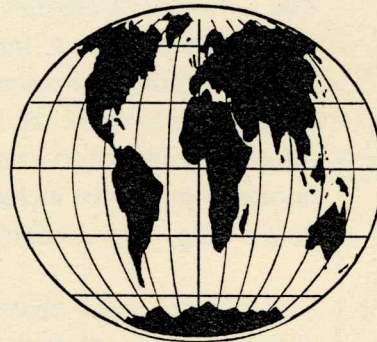
The process of planning in which we're engaged is difficult. But in the final analysis, we are building toward academic renewal and development which holds real promise for the future of the Faculty.

Gail Valaskakis
Telephone: 2081
email: valas@vax2.concordia.ca

Congratulations to Catherine Vallejo, Department of Modern Languages & Linguistics, for having received a substantial grant from Multiculturalism, Department of Canadian Heritage, to mount an immersion weekend for students enrolled in Spanish language courses (see page 6).

The Department of Modern Languages & Linguistics hosted a symposium on women and Spanish-American literature ("La mujer y la literatura hispanoamericana") on March 30, organized by Dr. Vallejo once again. Speakers were from a variety of universities: Université de Montréal, McGill, University of Toronto, Carleton, and even as far away as Universidad de Costa Rica.

Vice-Dean Academic Affairs and International Relations



Despite mid-winter doldrums and end-of-term blahs -- or perhaps because of them -- activities with an international flavour continue to liven up the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Henry Habib, with the financial support of the Montreal Egyptian community, brought Jehan Sadat to Concordia. On the evening of April 3, Mrs. Sadat delivered a lecture on the "Role of Women in the Middle East". A number of other events, including a press conference, were held in conjunction with her visit.

The School of Community and Public Affairs is organizing a study tour of Africa in May. Led by the Honourable David MacDonald, currently adjunct professor at the School, and Marguerite Mendell, SCPA Principal, the tour will take students to Eritrea, Ethiopia and Uganda. The trip will provide a unique opportunity for students to gain an understanding of policy

Sorry!!

In Issue 2 we accidentally renamed Jacqueline Anderson of Geography "Judith" in Vice-Dean Woodsworth's article.

In Issue 3, Vice-Dean Danis was incorrectly identified as Vice-Dean, Academic Planning. His correct title is Vice-Dean, Administrative Affairs.

Our apologies for these errors.

News from the Dean's Office

problems confronting the African continent. Further information is available from Dr. Mendell at 848-2580.

In May, the Joint Centre for Asia Pacific Communication Research will be hosting a group of twenty Chinese scholars. A number of activities and workshops have been organized for the visitors. These will be held at Concordia and will involve members of the university and various experts from outside (see page 7).

At the initiative of Balbir Sahni, Director of CIAC, the associate deans responsible for international relations have been meeting regularly. Dr. Sahni recently hosted a meeting with Pierre Guimond, Deputy Director of the European Union Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Mr. Guimond spoke about cooperation between the European Union and Canada and announced two new initiatives: an agreement aimed at promoting scientific and technological cooperation between Canada and the European Union and another one designed to foster student mobility. For more information contact my office.

Judith Woodsworth
Telephone: 2090
email: judithw@vax2.concordia.ca

Vice-Dean Research, Space and Development

Grant winners

The results of the major granting agencies competitions are in. We would like to congratulate those that were successful, and commiserate with those who were not.

The following people obtained *new* operating grants from SSHRC:

M. Despland, Religion
D. Gold, Psychology
J. Herz, English
E. Pechter, English
A. Sierpinska, Mther
B. Slack, Geography
S. Weber, Education

Fourteen more were ranked 4A (all the glory but none of the money). A total of forty one applications were submitted (from Arts and Science).

Winners of *new* NSERC operating grants are:

C. Cupples, Biology
J. Kornblatt, Biology
P. Widden, Biology
J. Capobianco,
Chemistry/Biochemistry
D. Jack, Chemistry/Biochemistry
M. Lawrence,
Chemistry/Biochemistry
N. Serpone,

Chemistry/Biochemistry
Y. Tsantrizos,
Chemistry/Biochemistry
J. Breslaw, Economics
R. Raphael, Mathematics/Statistics
Y. Wang, Mathematics/Statistics
Z. Amit, Psychology
Shizgal, Psychology

There were seventeen applications.

NSERC equipment grants went to:

A. English,
Chemistry/Biochemistry
Y. Chaubey,
Mathematics/Statistics
P. Vasilopoulos, Physics
R. Gurnsey, Psychology
R. Wise, Psychology

There were twenty three applications.

New FCAR Nouveau Chercheur awards were won by:

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News from the Dean's Office

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K. Sawchuck, Communication Studies

J. Zacharius, Geography

There were six applications.

There were no *new* FCAR team grants: two applications had been submitted. I do not yet have the statistics on how our success rate compares with last year.

A note on behalf of Computing Services

I have been asked to appeal to professors who use the computer labs run by Computing Services to respect the restriction that student activities in the labs be completed one week after the end of classes, particularly if no prior arrangement has been negotiated. The are two main reasons for this stipulation: Firstly the staff need time to purge all the old accounts and associated software and prepare for the new term - extending accounts requires special time-consuming intervention in otherwise routine procedures. Secondly, certain labs require supervision to prevent the newer equipment from mysteriously walking off. Staffing them beyond the normal period is an added expense.

Peter Bird
Telephone: 2089
email: birp@vax2.concordia.ca

Vice-Dean Student Affairs

Yes, it's true. I am about to talk some more about one of my two favorite issues, recruitment. I especially want to talk about recruitment because of an encouraging meeting, arranged by Dr. Lowy, that I attended a couple of weeks ago.

A number of excellent ideas were raised and discussed during the meeting. But I think one of the most important points was raised by Peter Regimbald. When asked if there were times when recruitment is more effective than other times, he stated that recruitment was an ongoing process. I certainly agree with him, as this point was brought home to me recently.

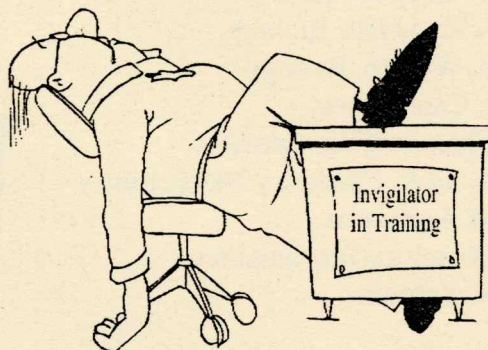
My lovely daughter is in 10th grade this year. (I better mention that I also have a lovely son, or else he will accuse me of favoritism!) A few weeks ago, she received a letter from one of the local CEGEPs. It was brief, but described a couple of programs, and included an invitation to use

their library until the end of the semester. Until she received this letter, my daughter had given only cursory thought to CEGEP, and none at all to attending this particular CEGEP. Further, she knew that the letter was part of a bulk mailing, but was still pleased with the letter, and impressed by the invitation to use the library. The point is that, 18 months prior to making her final decision as to which institution to attend, my daughter has been given a reason to think about attending this CEGEP.

I know that some departments have initiated similar ventures. Exercise Science and Psychology have sent me brochures that they have developed, describing their departments and programs which are being sent around to high schools and CEGEPs. Good idea! If other departments have materials, I would like to see them. As Pete said, recruitment is an ongoing process, and the sooner we have students thinking of Concordia the better.

And now for something completely different. Exam time is upon us, and with exams come final grades. And graduation. Might I encourage everyone to get their grades in as quickly as possible, so as to avoid last second problems for graduating students? Thank you.

Jim Jans
Telephone: 2104
email: jejans@vax2.concordia.ca



News from the Dean's Office

Vice Dean Administrative Affairs

Chair Search

Nine Chair Search Committees have completed their deliberations and their decisions have been recommended to the Dean. Two other Departments Chairs were determined by the Dean's appointment as Acting Chairs. Classics, the only Department where the Search Committee concluded its deliberations by suggesting a recommended Acting Chair. The following list shows the candidates the Search Committee's have recommended for those Departments which will have new Chairs appointed for June 1, 1996:

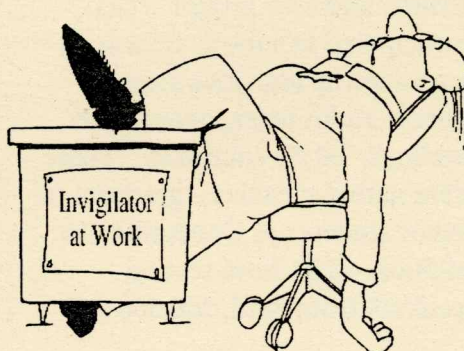
- Biology: Robert Roy
- Classics: Acting Chair to be determined
- Communication Studies: William Gilsdorf
- Economics: Ian Irvine (Acting)
- Études françaises: Lucie Lequin
- History: Martin Singer
- Leisure Studies: Randy Swedburg (Acting)
- Modern Languages and Linguistics: Annette Teffeteller
- Psychology: William Bukowski
- Sociology and Anthropology: David Howes
- Simone de Beauvoir Institute and Women Studies Programme: Chantal Maillé

Marcel Danis
Telephone: 2086
email: danis@artsci.concordia.ca

Budget Office

Professional Expense Allowance

The Budget Office's deadline for receiving Professional Expense Allowance expense claims from Faculty Members is April 30th. Please note that any equipment purchase **MUST** go through the Purchasing Department (computers, printers, software, etc.) and **MUST** be received by Friday, May 17th. Travel expenses must have proof of payment attached. Book receipts are needed as well as titles listed in order to be reimbursed. All receipts must be original - photocopies will not be accepted. Any questions regarding the Professional Expense Allowance should be directed to Alex Konyari at 2094.



YEAR-END Closing Dates

Purchase Requisitions, Minor Purchase Orders and Release Requisitions must be received by Purchasing Services by Friday, April 12 at 5:00 p.m. AND need the prior approval of the Budget Office. Goods must be received by Shipping/Receiving by Friday, May 17 at 5:00 p.m. Any questions regarding Year-End may be directed to Alex Konyari at 2094, Maureen Doheny at 2097 or Barbara Harris at 2099.

The Arts and Science Faculty Web Server

Listed below are some statistics from the Arts and Science Faculty Web Server. If you have not yet put up a department or personal homepage please contact Aaron Brauer at 848-7333. As you can see from the figures below there is quite an advantage to being on the Web. It is particularly interesting to note the activity in the Faculty and Staff homepage area. We regularly receive e-mail asking as to the location or e-mail addresses of particular faculty members. It is not at all difficult to get started. Many faculty have included course notes and assignments on their pages. It is an interesting and effective way of communicating with your students.

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Professors Win Awards

Dr James Pfaus, an Assistant Professor in the Centre for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology (CSBN) in the Department of Psychology, was the 1995 recipient of the Frank A. Beach Award in Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, an award given annually at the Society for Neuroscience meeting to recognize outstanding contributions of a young researcher in the field of behavioral neuroendocrinology. At the award ceremony, Dr Pfaus delivered a thirty minute talk entitled, "Homologies of animal and human sexual behavior." As part of the award, Dr Pfaus received a cheque for US\$500 and will have his name engraved on a permanent plaque which hangs in the Frank A. Beach Memorial Auditorium at the University of California at Berkeley.

Dr. David Ketterer, Professor in the Department of English, will be the recipient of the Pilgrim Award of the Science Fiction Research Association, an award for lifetime achievement for outstanding contributions to science fiction scholarship. The award will be granted formally in June at the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Tom Kovats, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Studies, and Dr. Varda Mann-Feder, Assistant Professor in the Department of Applied Social Science were this year's recipients of the Concordia Council on Student Life Teaching

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In-House Spanish Immersion Weekend a Success

During the weekend of March 15, 16 and 17 1996, twenty-one students of Beginners and Intermediate Spanish enjoyed a 24-hour 'Immersion' experience right in the Hall Building. Thanks to a generous grant received from the Department of Canadian Heritage, Multiculturalism Canada, Dr. Catherine Vallejo, Associate Professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics was able to organize activities that were considered to be both fun and helpful by all participants. The weekend was a great success on all counts, it was ¡divertidísimo!

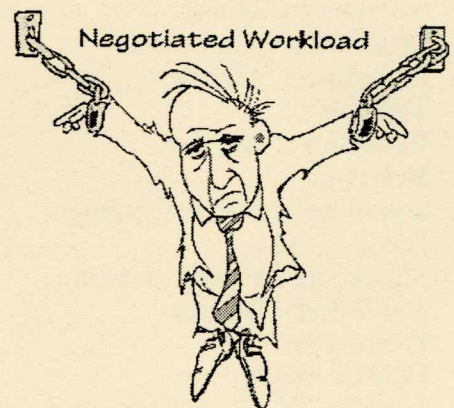
There is enormous interest in learning Spanish on the part of the student body at Concordia University; the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics is hard put to satisfy the demand. These students receive qualified and competent instruction, but are intrinsically limited in their learning experience by the lack of extended, intense exposure to Spanish language and to contact with Hispanic culture.

The inmersión students were divided into two groups which participated in various informally organized by activities such as videos, audio tapes, games, and readings, led by animators. These were native speakers - graduate or senior students at Concordia. In addition, visits from several speakers from Perú, México and

Argentina were arranged. On Friday there was a Rompehielo (ice-breaking) party with a Latin American dance demonstration and the Saturday and Sunday restaurant lunches were a great success. On Sunday the student groups presented their own creations - a 'play' and an animated explanation of the piñata phenomenon - for the whole group.

By Saturday afternoon all students were enthusiastically speaking Spanish, even among themselves, and they all agreed that it had been fun. Collateral benefits, such as acquaintance with Montreal's multicultural environment, extracurricular contact with other students and a lasting confidence and willingness to use acquired skills in Spanish are already evident. All students requested that this event be repeated regularly.

-C. Vallejo, Assistant Professor,
Modern Languages & Linguistics



Chinese Scholars to Visit Concordia in May

The Concordia / UQAM Joint Centre for Asia Pacific Communication Research will conduct inter-cultural orientation seminars for about 20 Chinese scholars who are coming to Canada this summer for research in Canadian Studies. Their visit is coordinated by the Association for Canadian Studies, and sponsored by the education section of the Foreign Affairs Department.

The scholars will be in residence at Loyola May 20-27. The orientation sessions will include an introduction to Canadian life, communication and media issues and hands-on demonstrations of computerized library research, e-mail and the Internet. Other days will be taken up by seminars on Canadian literature, history, politics and public affairs organized by the Canadian Studies group.

The team for the orientation sessions is led by: Prof. Kong Fah Lee of John Abbott College, president of the Joint Centre, a well-known scholar in Asia studies and leader in the Montreal

Chinese community; Prof. Claude-Yves Charron of UQAM, one of Canada's leading Sinologists who served (1987-89) as cultural counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Beijing; Elizabeth Morey, director of student services at Marianapolis College, who is a former CIAC director at Concordia and first executive director of the Joint Centre; and Prof. Lindsay Crysler of Journalism, co-director with Prof. Charron of the Joint Centre.

Among participants in the sessions will be: Mark Abley of The Gazette and Prof. Pierre Nepveu of Université de Montréal, writers of journalism, literary criticism, poetry and fiction who will introduce the visitors to young Canadian writers.

Efforts will be made to have the visitors meet Concordia faculty from the broad "Canadian studies" field. Interested faculty could contact Lindsay Crysler at 2468 or by e-mail at crysler@vax2.concordia.ca.

Statistics *(continued from page 5)*

Top 10 Directories Accessed

1. Faculty and Staff homepages
2. Interdisciplinary Studies
3. Exercise Science
4. Main Homepage
5. Sociology and Anthropology
6. Geography
7. Chemistry
8. Education
9. History
10. Communication Studies

Activity by Day of the Week

Average Hits per day	1410
Average Sessions per day	178
Visitors to Homepage	657
Number of Hits	9874
User Sessions	1243
Foreign User Sessions	38.17%
Canadian User Sessions	61.83%

Timeframe: April 1 to April 8,

Sunday	6.33%
Monday	21.85%
Tuesday	27.28%
Wednesday	17.82%
Thursday	10.94%
Friday	8.44%
Saturday	7.29%
Weekdays	86.37%
Weekends	13.62%

Upcoming Doctoral Defenses

- Ronda Adessky, Psychology, will defend "The Relationship of Group and Family Experiences to Peer Related Aggression and Popularity in Middle Class Kindergarten Children" on Tuesday, April 23, 1996 at 10:00 am in PY 244 (Loyola). Thesis supervisor: D. White.



Chair in Jewish Studies Conference *(Continued from page 1)*

The format of the conference will include presentations in the following areas: Social Scientific Study of Jews and Judaism, Holocaust Studies, Jewish Thought, Classical Textual Study, Women's Studies, Cultural Studies and Jewish History. After each area is presented, a roundtable discussion on that area will be held in which all conference participants will be able to interact with the presentees.

The conference is organized by a committee including Judaic scholars from Concordia, York, McGill, Queen's, and the University of British Columbia.

For further information, please contact Prof. Ira Robinson of the Department of Religion at 848-2066.

CRDH Conference *(Continued from page 1)*

interventions at different stages of human life. This objective includes the discussion of issues involved in designing interventions that focus on producing competent individuals or on environments that facilitate competent responses. The role of the family in producing and maintaining competent functioning at different stages in the lifespan will also be discussed.

The second objective of the conference is to examine the ethical issues arising from applied research. This examination would consider the issues of ethics and social responsibility across all aspects of the involvement of psychology with humans, including academic research, applied interventions in various institutional settings and social policy deliberations.

If you would like further information about the conference or you would like to receive the registration/abstract form, please call Donna Craven at 848-8640.

Editor: Peter Bird
Layout and design: Lori Dupuis

This publication is a bi-monthly presentation for our Faculty. We welcome your comments and feedback on this publication, and are interested in your activities, achievements or ideas which may be of interest to the readers of this newsletter. Please drop us a brief line with a telephone number for follow-up at:

DUPUIS@ARTSCI.CONCORDIA.CA.

Awards *(Continued from page 6)*

Award in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Ron Mackay, professor in TESL, Dr Alister Cumming, a colleague of his at the OISE (the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education), and an OISE Ph.D. student in evaluation were presented with the Robert W. B. Jackson Award by the Canadian Educational Researchers' Association. Their paper, entitled, "Learning Processes in a Canadian Exchange Program for Multicultural, Anti-Racist Education," was published in the Canadian Journal of Education in 1994. The award is presented to the best-judged English article in the Canadian Journal of Education. It honours Canadian scholar Robert W.B. Jackson who was, among other things, a pioneer researcher in the application of ANOVA to reliability issues, head of the Department of Educational Research at the University of Toronto, and the founding Director of the OISE. The award was accompanied by a \$200 award and a certificate.

Server *(Continued from page 1)*

resolution)

An additional 2 Gbyte hard disk will be available.

The machines will be managed by a committee of representatives from Chemistry and Biochemistry, Biology, Physics, and Mathematics and Statistics, chaired by Laurie Colebrook (Chemistry and Biochemistry) who also will be the system administrator. Contact him for details.
- Peter Bird